

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The newspaper/broadcast

cross-ownership cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

If there is further consolidation, for cost-cutting/profit-making reasons there will be even less chance of a variety of news, opinion, and information to be published. The public is ALREADY being seriously shortchanged. We see evidence of this every day, as we publish a community newspaper in Baltimore City. We are overwhelmed with news and information the public should know that is not being made available by other local media. It becomes our responsibility to try to make up for this, as best we can. We need MORE media outlets, preferably independent ones, not fewer.